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NOTE TO ARTICLE VIII.

SINCE the above-named article passed through the press, our attention has been called to certain writings, — under the signature “Grattan,” — of a person, who, among the intemperate newspaper writers engaged in the late Presidential election struggle, made himself conspicuously obnoxious to censure (besides doing serious mischief to the cause he advocated) by his false accusations against eminent individuals. The allusion in the speech of General Harrison quoted above on p. 220 had reference to a passage in an article in the Washington “Globe,” subscribed with the name dearest perhaps of all others to Irishmen, stating that “General Harrison was one of the vilest Orangemen in America,” and that he had declared that he “cared nothing for the opinions of those who came three thousand miles across the water.”

In another of the *tirades* of this writer, in the same paper, he made the still more monstrous assertion, that “Daniel Webster was reposing on a couch, in *his marble palace* at Boston, and enjoying from his windows the conflagration of the Charlestown convent in 1836, while a word from him might have put a stop to the devastation.”

It would be a waste of time to refute this intense absurdity, for those who know the sentiments of Mr. Webster, or the localities of the city of Boston, or who can measure, even in memory, the mass of buildings, for full three miles, between Mr. Webster’s brick house in Summer Street, and the ruins of the Mount Benedict convent. But these easily-exposed slanders are even more pardonable than the sin of affixing to them a name memorable from having been borne by one of the greatest orators and most honorable men of any age, and which is moreover possessed by a writer of our own day who has been for some time resident in this country. The living and the dead are thus remorselessly libelled together. A quadruple injustice is at once inflicted ; — on one, who cannot from his patriot grave resent the insult ; on another, who is forced, from his high station, to refute the calumny ; on a third, who most likely holds it in scorn too great for his notice ; and on a fourth, who may be saddled with the odium of its authorship. We verily believe the last is the most, — although it be but negatively, — aggrieved. The fame of Henry Grattan is sufficient to repel the wrong done by this usurper of his patronymic. The reputation of Thomas Colley Grattan might suffer seriously under the imputed enormity of his *soi-disant* namesake’s style, to say nothing (the real value) of his opinions. Such writers of political philippics should, in common honesty, go back for their *noms de guerre* to the dark ages, where names may be found of obscurity congenial to their own.